

## The Double Tragedy

Of President Lincoln and the Man Who Had Saved His Life

By MILLARD MALTBIE  
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There are many stories in the life of Abraham Lincoln. Probably no man ever lived who was connected with more romances. But in them all there is something sad. It was a period of war in which these events of which he was the central figure occurred, and only a very few of the romances extracted from war have happy terminations. No one can look upon the portrait of Abraham Lincoln without seeing there the solemnity of those four years when the boys of '61 to '65 were being mowed down like wheat, when every family in the north and in the south were mourning.

There is one event in the life of President Lincoln which, if certain efforts that were made had been successful, would have left nonexistent his leadership in the great struggle and he would have gone down in history simply as the man whose election brought it on. True, it would have been adorned with the crown of martyrdom, but at the beginning instead of the end of his career.

This is the story of his escape from that earlier attempt to assassinate him which was a failure.

It was in the spring of 1861, when secession sympathizers were plotting against the lines of communication leading from the national capital, that a man, middle aged, muscular and with a determined though tranquil face appeared in Perrymanville, Md. He was a Pinkerton detective and had been sent there to discover plots to damage railroad property.

When Mr. Lincoln went to Washington for his first inauguration, having passed through New York, he went southward on the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio railroads. Allan Pinkerton, chief of the Chicago detective bureau, learned through a master machinist of the latter road that a number of secessionists had banded themselves by an oath to assassinate Mr. Lincoln while journeying to the capital. There was but little time to act, for the president elect was about to leave his home. When the assassination plan was conceived it was not known by the conspirators that what route Mr. Lincoln would go to the capital. They were therefore obliged to arrange for an attack upon him at several different points. The Perrymanville branch of the organization pretended to be a cavalry company. Webster, who, though of a quiet exterior, knew how to sham very deep feeling against the Yankee government, at once enrolled himself in this cavalry company.

But getting into the company was far from getting its plans, and unfortunately there was very little time to discover them. Webster relied on his pretended hatred of the government to secure his initiation into the inner circle. His ruse succeeded. He was invited to go to the house of the captain of the company, but not to say a word about the invitation. In a room every window of which was protected against hearing and seeing from the outside he met men from the central point of the conspiracy, Baltimore, and was received as one of the planners of the work to be done.

Seated about a table, the party discussed different methods of assassinating the president elect. Webster, being a new man and of a reserved disposition, listened to the others, only occasionally pointing out some weak spot in a proposition or suggesting a way to obviate it. Before the conference broke up it had been decided to shoot Mr. Lincoln at the depot as he was passing through Baltimore on the 23d of March.

Webster now had the plans in his possession. Taking himself away from the so called cavalry company, he went where he could safely communicate with his chief, Allan Pinkerton. On the night of the 21st of February Pinkerton met Mr. Lincoln at the Continental hotel at Philadelphia and revealed the plot.

The question now arose how, having the plan, to defeat it. A ruse was adopted. Instead of going on to Washington direct, Mr. Lincoln was taken northwest to Harrisburg. But it was no easy job to turn the gaze of millions of people from the most prominent figure in the land with hosts of newspaper correspondents watching his every movement. The telegraph wires leading out of Harrisburg were secretly grounded, thus cutting off that city from the rest of the world.

Mr. Lincoln now being able to travel without news of his passage being telegraphed from every station, a private train was made up at Harrisburg, and the president elect—it is said that he was disguised—was taken back to Philadelphia and at midnight of the 23d, instead of the 23d, as had been arranged, was rushed through Baltimore and early the next morning arrived safe in Washington.

This brief statement of the plan to assassinate the president elect and his defeat is essential to the story—a story of Abraham Lincoln as the central figure and Timothy Webster, whose quick work was instrumental in saving him for the great work he was to accomplish. It would have been well had the president kept Webster by him until his task having been finished, he should return to the less dangerous field of private life. But Webster could not have brooked four years of comparative idleness. Besides, there was a continued need for his services. The only railroad thoroughfare between the northern Atlantic states and the capital was continually threatened. Indeed, there was no safety on any line connecting the capital with the rest of the country. Even dispatches were not safe in transit. The first work done by Webster after foiling the intention of the Baltimore conspirators was to carry some important papers through to the president. Webster found the railroad bridges burned by the secessionists. Taking the route through Harrods Creek, where a long bridge was destroyed, he was rowed across the river and hired a wagon to take him onward. He was obliged to pass through Perrymanville, and the wagon was stopped by the cavalry company in which Webster had enlisted for a spy. He was recognized, but fortunately for him the fact that he had revealed their plot to the government was not known to them.

Webster traveled on in company with an Englishman whose confidence he won, and the man revealed to him that he was bearing dispatches to southern sympathizers in Washington. When the two reached the environs of the capital, Webster, meeting one whom he knew to be a Union man, sent word by him to the picket guard that he wished them to arrest both him and his companion. This was done, but as soon as they were separated Webster was released and went to the White House. There he was at once admitted to Mr. Lincoln and, taking off his coat and vest, ripped open the lining and produced the dispatches. They and those found on the Englishman were of vital importance. Possibly the latter were the more important, since they revealed that the president was living in a city where numbers of the enemy's sympathizers were plotting for the capture of the capital.

Webster, though he did not serve Mr. Lincoln personally, accomplished a great work for him as president. The spy played a double game. He would go south as a southern man and enter the service of the government for the purpose of giving them information of the designs of the Federal government. There he pretended to be a Federal spy when he was really a Confederate spy. He was from the first a Pinkerton detective, and when Pinkerton organized the military secret service, bureau of the United States government Webster entered that service and worked for the pay he received in it. Ordinarily it is hard to tell which side a spy playing this double game is really working for. But Webster in the beginning saved the life of the president elect and continued to take him important information, while he had only to give the Confederates what he wanted.

This being a story of Mr. Lincoln rather than Webster, the many remarkable romances in the life of the latter during his term of service must be passed over without even a catalogue of them. Finally, though suffering from rheumatism, he started south in company with Miss Lewis, who was in his confidence. The trip was to be his last invasion into the south. Unfortunately he was laid up a long while in Richmond with rheumatism. Miss Lewis nursed him. During this time nothing was heard from him at Washington, and the president and others who knew of his mission became anxious about him. It was determined to send the members of the secret service force south to look for him.

The two men went to Richmond. They learned that Webster was lying ill at a hotel and blundered by going directly to see him without communicating with him. In his room they found a Confederate and were rash enough to hand him a letter from Allan Pinkerton which, they said, came from a friend of his in Baltimore. They came again and unfortunately met an officer from the provost marshal's office. This meeting led to their examination. They were identified by a person who knew them, and all was lost.

When the news came to General McClellan's headquarters that the two men had been arrested as spies and had implicated Webster, Allan Pinkerton hurried to Washington to see Mr. Lincoln and discover if anything could be done to save them. Singularly enough, Webster had saved Lincoln's life, and now Lincoln was called upon to save Webster's life.

Mr. Lincoln called a special meeting of the cabinet to devise means to save the spies' lives. Nothing could be done except to communicate through the secretary of war calling the attention of the authorities at Richmond to the fact that the United States government had always been lenient to Confederate spies and had never tried or sentenced to death any one caught carrying information. The message closed with a threat of inaugurating a different code in future if the spies were executed.

Neither the fact pointed out nor the threat availed. Webster was hanged. Miss Lewis was imprisoned for a year, and the two men who caused the tragedy were imprisoned for twenty-two months. It is not probable that they would have escaped had they not implicated Webster. But it must be remembered that they had only indirectly been spies.

The last event of similarity between Mr. Lincoln and Webster occurred three years later, when Mr. Lincoln was again the object of the assassin's bullet. The double tragedy contains two singular coincidences. Both died for the cause, though neither of them as a soldier, and both died tragic deaths, one being hanged for a spy, the other murdered.

## For the Children

Clear the Road; the Coaster Is Coming.



Courtesy of St. Nicholas.

These are jolly days for the young folks who live where Jack Frost and the snow king hold sway. Brooks and ponds are icebound, and the hills and fields glisten under their covering of snow. What sport to strap on skates and skim like a bird over the glassy ice or to climb the hills and coast like a meteor to the valley below, like the joyous lad in the picture. "Clear the road, I'm coming!" he shouts, and you may be sure his comrades give him plenty of room. It is no joke to be bumped by a boy laden sled whizzing down a steep incline. Then comes the fun of mounting up again to repeat the exhilarating dash. Roses glow in cheeks, and despite the hilarious enjoyment, dinner time seems long a-coming. Summer sports are fine in their season, but now they seem tame in comparison with the glorious fun made possible by ice and snow.

### Here Goes Up For Monday.

This game requires seven players, each choosing a name of one of the days of the week. The players stand facing a high solid wall. "Sunday" takes a rubber ball, and throwing it high against the wall, calls out, "Here goes up for —," any day of the week being mentioned. The player whose name has been called must immediately run forward and catch the ball before it reaches the ground, the other players running away. If the ball is caught it is thrown against the wall by the catcher, and he, in his turn, calls a name. When the player fails to catch the ball he misses a point, or an "egg," as it is called. He must then pick up the ball and throw it at another player. If one is hit, that player also loses an egg and has in his turn to throw the ball against the wall. If, however, the player who throws the ball at the other player fails to hit the wall himself, the loss of three "eggs" puts the player "out." The last one having an egg left wins the game.

### The Jealous Deer.

Deer are sensitive animals and capable of all phases of affection, jealousy included. Judge Catron of Illinois has a fine deer park, and of the drove one who was in his confidence, friendly named Frank is especially friendly. He follows his keeper as a dog would do and manifests every sign of affection. One day another deer was brought into the park and the keeper in a short time had made quite a pet of it. Frank immediately grew sullen and in a few days could stand it no longer. First he charged upon the deer, knocking it down, and when the keeper interfered Frank turned upon him, and there was a lively battle for a few minutes. The other men came to the rescue, and Frank was beaten off and put in a small yard by himself. In the end the newcomer had to be sent away, and then Frank became as amiable as before.

### Water Ball.

Water ball is the most interesting outdoor game that you could imagine, and it is quite exciting too. First, a washtub is placed in the center of the lawn and filled half full of water. Then nine nice round potatoes are selected (rubber or baseballs may be used if preferred or even croquet balls). Then a line is marked with sticks or little stones ten paces from the bucket. The players stand in a row along the line, and each one in turn tries to toss his potato into the tub. Every potato that falls into the water counts one for the owner. Each one keeps his own count. When nine potatoes have been thrown they are fished out of the tub, and the players line up and toss over again. The first one who succeeds in putting twenty-one potatoes into the tub wins the game.

### Origin of the Thimble.

The thimble was at first worn on the thumb and for that reason was called a thumb bell, which later became thimble and finally thimble. It was invented by the Dutch and introduced in England in 1635. The first thimbles were made of iron or brass. Later came those of silver, gold, steel, horn, ivory, pearl and glass. The Chinese make beautiful thimbles of carved pearl, with gold binding and ends. One of the most gorgeous thimbles ever seen was a bridal gift from the king of Siam to his queen. It was made of gold, shaped like a lotus bud and was thickly studded with diamonds, arranged so as to spell the queen's name.

### Write It Right.

Write, we know, is written right. When we see it written w-r-i-t-e. But when we see it written r-i-g-h-t. We know it is not written right. But write, to have it written right. Must not be written r-i-g-h-t or r-l-a-t. Nor yet must it be written w-r-i-t-e. But w-r-i-t-e, for so it is written right.

## SPRING RIDING HABIT.

What the Up to Date Equestrienne Will Wear.



READY FOR THE HORSEBACK RIDE.

Women are taking more and more to horseback riding as a means of keeping themselves in form, but of course there are many who ride merely for the love of the exercise. Whatever the object of the sport, every woman who rides wants to be turned out in the latest and most approved riding togs. A dowdy looking woman on horseback is an unforfeitable object. She won't be a dowdy, however, if she goes to a good tailor and follows the idea of the riding costume seen in the illustration. The skirt is a divided affair made of English suiting, and the details are correct in every particular.

### Memorial to Famous Women.

The lady chapel of the new Liverpool cathedral, which is to be opened next summer, has a scheme of beautiful stained glass windows commemorating the famous women of the Bible the following are commemorated: Dr. Alice Marvel and all who have laid down their lives for their sisters, Grace Darling, and all courageous maidens, Josephine Butler and all brave champions of purity, Mary Collet and all prayerful women, Louise Stewart and all the noble army of martyrs, Christine Rossetti and all sweet singers, Catherine Gladstone and all loyal hearted wives, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and all women who have seen the infinite in things, Angela Burdett-Coutts and all women almoners of the King of heaven, Mother Cecile and all women loving and large hearted in counsel.

### How to Use Sawdust.

Sawdust may be made to serve a number of purposes for the housewife. It is good for removing sediment in glass and earthen ware. A handful thrown on a drying fire will help to revive it. Well dried and heated and sprinkled over grease spots in carpets, it is useful in removing these objectionable marks. It should be well rubbed in, left for a few hours, then treated again if necessary. Heat some sawdust on a piece of paper in the oven, and it is an excellent remedy for mildew and damp spots on metal or other polished goods. Rub some dry sawdust on articles that have been polished and the polish will last longer. Slightly moistened sawdust sprinkled on outdoor floors, verandas or larder, etc., and brushed off with a hard broom will clean the floor without much trouble.

### Things in Leather Goods.

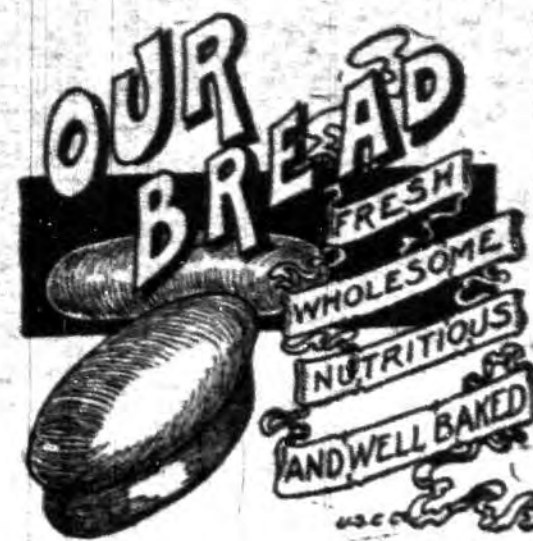
There is nothing strikingly new in leather accessories for the desk except in the finish of the materials. Shapes are necessarily the same as they have



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been for years, but there are beautiful finishings and mountings that vary from season to season.

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